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> Mountfield MTF 98H Thermal Mowing Tractor User Manual

STIGA MTF 98H

Mountfield MTF 98H Thermal Mowing Tractor User Manual

Model: MTF 98H (2T2610403/CAS)

INTRODUCTION

This manual provides essential information for the safe and efficient operation, maintenance, and troubleshooting of your STIGA Mountfield MTF 98H Thermal Mowing Tractor. Please read this manual thoroughly before operating the machine to ensure proper use and to prevent injury or damage.

The Mountfield MTF 98H is a powerful garden tractor designed for lawn mowing, featuring a 432cc Stiga ST 450 engine, 98 cm cutting width, and hydrostatic transmission. It offers 7 adjustable cutting heights from 25 to 80 mm and includes a 240-litre collection bin. A mulching cap is available separately for mulching functionality.



Figure 1: Front-side view of the Mountfield MTF 98H Thermal Mowing Tractor.

1. SAFETY INFORMATION

Always prioritize safety when operating the Mountfield MTF 98H. Failure to follow safety instructions can result in serious injury or death. Keep children and pets away from the operating area. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including eye protection, hearing protection, and sturdy footwear.

- Read and understand all instructions in this manual before use.
- Never allow children or untrained persons to operate the tractor.
- Inspect the area to be mowed and remove any objects that could be thrown by the blades.
- Operate only in daylight or good artificial light.
- Do not operate on excessively steep slopes.
- Turn off the engine, remove the key, and ensure all moving parts have stopped before performing any maintenance or clearing blockages.

2. SETUP AND ASSEMBLY

The Mountfield MTF 98H requires some assembly prior to first use. Refer to the separate assembly guide for detailed instructions. Key assembly steps typically include attaching the steering wheel, seat, and grass collector.

2.1 Initial Checks

- **Engine Oil Level:** Check the engine oil level using the dipstick. Add recommended oil if necessary.
- **Fuel Level:** Fill the fuel tank with fresh, unleaded gasoline. Do not overfill.

- **Tire Pressure:** Ensure tires are inflated to the recommended pressure.
- **Blade Condition:** Inspect cutting blades for sharpness and damage.
- **Safety Switches:** Verify all safety switches (e.g., seat switch, PTO switch) are functioning correctly.

2.2 Fueling the Tractor

Use only fresh, clean, unleaded gasoline with an octane rating of 87 or higher. Do not mix oil with gasoline. Always refuel in a well-ventilated area with the engine off and cool. Avoid spilling fuel.

2.3 Battery Connection

Ensure the battery is securely connected. If the battery is new or has been stored, it may require charging with a compatible battery charger (sold separately) before first use.

3. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

3.1 Starting the Engine

1. Ensure the parking brake is engaged.
2. Place the hydrostatic transmission lever in the neutral position.
3. Engage the choke (if the engine is cold).
4. Insert the ignition key and turn it to the "START" position. Release the key once the engine starts.
5. Disengage the choke gradually as the engine warms up.



Figure 2: Driver's console showing ignition key and control layout.



Figure 3: Detailed view of the ignition switch and choke lever.

3.2 Hydrostatic Transmission

The hydrostatic transmission allows for smooth, variable speed control. Use the foot pedal to control forward and reverse motion. Pressing the pedal forward increases forward speed; pressing it backward engages reverse. Release the pedal to stop.



Figure 4: Foot pedal area for controlling the hydrostatic transmission.

3.3 Adjusting Cutting Height

The Mountfield MTF 98H offers 7 cutting height positions, ranging from 25 mm to 80 mm. Adjust the cutting height using the lever located on the side of the tractor. Select a higher setting for rough terrain or taller grass, and a lower setting for a finer finish.



Figure 5: Cutting height adjustment lever with 7 positions (25-80 mm).

3.4 Mowing Operation

- Engage the cutting blades using the PTO (Power Take-Off) switch.
- Begin mowing at a moderate speed. Overloading the engine can lead to poor cutting performance and damage.
- Overlap each pass slightly to ensure even cutting.
- For optimal results, avoid mowing wet grass.
- The 240-litre collection bin efficiently gathers grass clippings. Empty the bin when full to maintain cutting performance.
- For mulching, install the mulching cap (sold separately) and remove the collection bin.



Figure 6: Side view of the tractor demonstrating the grass collection system.

4. MAINTENANCE

Regular maintenance is crucial for the longevity and performance of your Mountfield MTF 98H. Always turn off the engine, remove the ignition key, and disconnect the spark plug wire before performing any maintenance.

4.1 Engine Maintenance

- **Oil Change:** Change engine oil after the first 5 hours of operation, then every 50 hours or annually, whichever comes first. Refer to the engine manual for specific oil type and capacity.
- **Air Filter:** Clean or replace the air filter regularly, especially when operating in dusty conditions.
- **Spark Plug:** Inspect and clean the spark plug annually. Replace if worn or fouled.
- **Fuel Filter:** Replace the fuel filter as recommended by the engine manufacturer.

4.2 Cutting Deck and Blades

- **Cleaning:** Clean the underside of the cutting deck after each use to prevent grass buildup, which can affect cutting performance.
- **Blade Sharpening/Replacement:** Inspect blades for sharpness and balance. Sharpen or replace dull or damaged blades. Always replace blades in pairs to maintain balance.

4.3 General Cleaning and Storage

- Clean the exterior of the tractor with a damp cloth. Avoid using high-pressure washers directly on electrical components.
- Store the tractor in a dry, protected area when not in use.
- For long-term storage, prepare the engine according to the engine manufacturer's instructions (e.g., fuel stabilizer, fogging oil).

5. TROUBLESHOOTING

This section addresses common issues you might encounter with your Mountfield MTF 98H. For problems not listed here,

contact authorized service personnel.

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Engine will not start	No fuel; Choke not engaged; Spark plug faulty; Battery low; Safety switch engaged.	Check fuel level; Engage choke; Inspect/replace spark plug; Charge battery; Ensure parking brake is on and PTO is disengaged.
Poor cutting quality	Dull blades; Cutting deck clogged; Engine speed too low; Mowing wet grass.	Sharpen/replace blades; Clean cutting deck; Increase engine RPM; Mow when grass is dry.
Tractor loses power	Low fuel; Clogged air filter; Engine overheating.	Refuel; Clean/replace air filter; Check for obstructions around engine cooling fins.
Excessive vibration	Bent or unbalanced blades; Loose components.	Inspect and replace damaged blades; Tighten all fasteners.

6. SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Brand	STIGA
Model Number	2T2610403/CAS
Power Source	Thermal (Gasoline)
Engine	Stiga ST 450, 432cc
Cutting Width	98 cm (38.6 inches)
Cutting Heights	7 positions, 25-80 mm
Transmission	Hydrostatic
Collection Bin Capacity	240 Litres
Item Weight	160 Kilograms
Material	Plastic, Metal
Assembly Required	Yes

7. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For warranty information, please refer to the separate warranty document included with your purchase or visit the official STIGA website. For technical support, spare parts, or service inquiries, please contact your authorized STIGA dealer or STIGA customer service. Ensure you have your model number (MTF 98H) and serial number ready when contacting support.

STIGA Official Website: www.stiga.com



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